

BENEFIT

Food Supply



Our food supply is the safest, and the most abundant in the world. Pesticides are one of the important tools that have made that abundance possible.

Dr. C. Everett Koop
Former United States Surgeon General

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Aerial Spraying at NAS Lemoore



Protecting Our Food Supply & Our People

NAS Lemoore is surrounded by farm land. The station itself owns approximately 14,000 acres of land that is leased to farmers. Farming is the major industry of the San Joaquin Valley. One inescapable characteristic of farming is the need to apply pesticides and fertilizers. In order for farmers to produce enough crops to meet the needs of Americans and people world-wide, they have to use pesticides and fertilizers.

What is a pesticide?

"Pesticide" describes many substances used to control pests. "Pests" are organisms that cause damage or economic loss, or transmit disease to crops. Pests include insects, weeds, plant diseases, rodents, algae, viruses, and bacteria.

What is a fertilizer?

A fertilizer is a material added to the soil to replace or increase plant nutrients. Fertilizers help increase crop yields.

The United States Environmental Protection Agency maintains very strict control over pesticides on the market. In California, The Department of Pesticide Regulations has an additional registration process that pesticides must go through before they are allowed to be used in the state.

Pesticides and fertilizers applied around NAS Lemoore are done so safely within strict controlled limits established by the United States Environmental Protection Agency.

These limits are set to protect human health and safety.

During and after application, the level of exposure to these materials is considered safe to humans.

Aerial spraying or crop dusting is the most effective and economical way to treat large fields, such as the farm land around NAS Lemoore. Crop dusting usually occurs in the early morning or late evening when environmental conditions are favorable. It is done at this time to ensure as much of the agricultural chemical as possible reaches the crops.

At the level of exposure that the pesticides and fertilizers would normally be encountered, they are considered safe to humans.

